THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government has ratified the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between India and the United States of America when the President of India signed the instrument of ratification on 22nd March, 2002.

This Treaty adds one more legal instrument to the existing bilateral Extradition Treaty for dealing with criminals and fugitives, as stated in answer to the Unstarred Question 1248 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2002.

Indian emigrants in Pakistan

3879. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian emigrants in Pakistan and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether termination of the Train and Bus services have affected/will affect these people badly; and

(c) if so, the alternative arrangements Government had made/ proposed to make in order to help these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) For historical and family related reasons, there has been continued emigration between India and Pakistan. Passenger travel between the two countries, including for such persons, continues to be possible via air routes that transit through third countries.

In order to assist those Pakistan nationals, who entered India on valid visas, but could not return to Pakistan because of the termination of bus and train services on 1st January 2002, Government permitted, as a special case, the exit of these Pakistan nationals through the Wagha border checkpost, or by air routes to Pakistan transiting through third countries.